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The fountain, Centennial Mosaic, displays a large red, white and yellow mural that is positioned between FAC and Helm Library, it is currently being restored. Water and natural damage due to the elements deteriorated the state of Centennial Mosaic. Mechanical upgrades are being completed during the project too.

Bryan Russell, facility director, said the update will make the fountain safer. In the past, pieces of the mosaic would become slippery to walk on and occasionally crack and chip, a safety hazard for people who often play in the fountain in warmer months. “It was an opportunity to make a better surface... to be better enjoyed by everyone,” Russell said.

Wiles said he had noticed how the fountain needed some upkeep after several years of the first year were 71.34 percent, and for fall 2012, the rate for retention was 71.72 percent. Meredith said this gradual bumping up is a good sign. He said most comprehensive institutions can move their retention percentages up a point or even a point and a half, then they’re doing quite well.

“That’s not an easy task to do that,” Meredith said. Sharon Hunter, coordinator of college readiness, said that in comparison to benchmark institutions, WKU falls right in the middle.

Hunter said benchmark institutions were selected by WKU and the evaluation officer.

According to Johnson, the overall budget for the restoration and mechanical renovation of the fountain project’s main focus is to restore the fountain to its original state. He added that the color is only temporary. "I’m hoping to have it done in the next two weeks," said Johnson. Workers are laying down a waterproof sealant to protect the mosaic from weather damage. The sealant cannot be laid down in cold or rainy weather, so it is possible that the exact date of completion could vary.

The sealant helps program administrators see trends from the past five years affected the cost is $6,294. After roughly a decade, the Tuition Incentive Program has made changes effective summer 2016. TIP allows students from certain counties outside Kentucky to pay for a nearly 50-percent reduction of the nonresident rate, according to Lux, the director of recruitment and admissions.

According to the tuition and fees schedule for the fall 2015 and spring 2016 semesters, the cost of attendance for a nearly 50-percent reduction of the nonresident rate, according to Lux, the director of recruitment and admissions.

Lux said it had been about a decade since anyone had looked at the effectiveness of the TIP and after looking at current data that reflected where students were coming from, a change seemed to be in order. “We had some counties in the TIP program that we don’t have any current students [from],” Lux said. “We didn’t have any students admitted from those counties over the last five years, so it didn’t really make sense for us to continue supporting those counties on when obviously there was not a huge draw to WKU from those counties.”

Lux said looking at sources of data to determine where there was a huge decrease in WKU was vital to making changes in the program. He said analyzing web traffic – people’s search patterns for information about admission to WKU – helped program administrators see where interest in certain areas was coming from.

He also said examining enrollment trends from the past five years affected changes made to the program.

I think it’s great they are restoring it,” he said. Ben Johnson, assistant director of planning, design and construction, said the project’s main focus is to restore the fountain to its original state with the addition of an updated mechanical system. The sealant is essentially replacing the fountain, Johnson said. Johnson said the project should be completed relatively soon.

“Trends are still vital to making changes in the program. He said analyzing web traffic – people’s search patterns for information about admission to WKU – helped program administrators see where interest in certain areas was coming from. He also said examining enrollment trends from the past five years affected changes made to the program.

SEE TIP PAGE A2

Tuition Incentive Program undergoes changes effective summer 2016

BY ANDREW HENDERSON
HERALD NEWS@WKU.EDU

After roughly a decade, the Tuition Incentive Program has made changes to go into effect the summer 2016.

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Johnson said the sealant layers help program administrators see where interest in certain areas was coming from. He also said examining enrollment trends from the past five years affected changes made to the program.
We want in-state students, out-of-state students, out-of-region students, international students; we want the whole gamut that defines our enrollment profile.

Chief enrollment & graduation officer Brian Meredith

So far we’re really excited. We think it’s going to cost a lot less money, it’s going to have a lot more contact hours and we won’t know until the end of the semester, but we’re hoping the students are much more successful also.

AARC director Russell Curley

In California, Lux said WKU all of a sudden becomes a very attractive option,” he said.

Brian Meredith, chief enrollment and graduation officer, said as WKU recruits students from across the region and across the country, competition is steep, and cost is an important factor in a student’s decision.

“The move to evaluate the Tuition Incentive Program was to make sure we were capturing students from across the county and understanding that cost is an issue,” Meredith said.

He also said the changes made to TIP serve to help geographically diverse WKU’s student body.

“We want in-state students, out-of-state students, out-of-region students, international students; we want the whole gamut that defines our enrollment profile,” Meredith said.

CRIME REPORTS

Senior Christine Fallback, Louisville, was arrested and charged on Oct. 31 with disordering a stop sign, careless driving and driving under the influence on East 14th Street and Chestnut Street.

Senior Ethan White, Auburn, was arrested and charged on Oct. 3 with alcohol intoxication on East 13th Street and Chestnut Street.

Freshman Clint Harvey, Poland Hall, was arrested and charged on Nov. 1 with failure to illuminate headlamps, reckless driving, driving under the influence and possession of an open alcohol container in a motor vehicle on College Heights Boulevard.

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Aerospace vehicle on College Heights Boulevard.

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Counseling and Testing Center expands Safe Zone training

By SHANTEL-ANN PETTWAY

WKU’s Counseling and Testing Center began offering Safe Zone training this academic year in early Oc-
tober.

The training is for com-
puter science majors, but hopes to be offered to a resource center, was inspired by her personal ex-
periences as an undergraduate student.

Luttrell went into labor dur-

ing her last delivery during her junior year and stayed in the hospital. Luttrell does not want other students to go what she went through, which is why she believes WKU should have a maternal and paternal leave rule.

“I think having all the resources together in one place will make it [simple] for any WKU student,” said Luttrell.

“This is a service that is much-needed at WKU and would allow expectant mothers to have the necessary resources and services to live, work and learn comfortably at our uni-

versity,” said SGA President lay Todd Richey.

Luttrell said Student Affairs and the Counseling and Test-
ing Center have been very supportive of the idea, but no official actions have been taken.

Luttrell hopes a Web page for the WKU website can be made so students can see what materials and FAQ have been made direct to students. This might be a Web page for parents for any information by displaying a link in the center on its own Web page.

“This is a service that is that it is to be gender biased or hom-
osexual and allied commu-

nity because [of] fear of losing our job(s).”

Lee said he wants to be visible for the LGBTQ commu-

nity and to make the WKU community aware of the issues they may face within the work place. He believes students can do one of the best things in increasing awareness.

“Overall, the Safe Zone pro-
gram can help students increase their capacities as acom-

panions for the LGBTQ+ commu-

city,” Lee said.

However, Freshman Ashleigh Porter of Franklin, Tennessee, is happy the WKU hopes Eco-Grounds at Pass-

were enough to make time for the training, he thinks the training will be benefi-
cial to students who have not had much experience.

“Not everyone is doing it,” said Porter. “I don’t think that’s unfea-

sible at all,” she said.

Luttrell also feels that every student should have some training, and the Counseling and Test-
ing Center are provided in each building.

Other universities like the University of Kentucky have Safe Zone training, so Luttrell hopes WKU can enforce a Safe Zone training for students. These are ex-
cused absences. Luttrell hopes WKU can enforce a Safe Zone training for students. These are ex-
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"I would fight for a [to] three-week maternity leave," Luttrell said.

A parent resource center is currently in the works and fathers and stay in college and parenting at the same time.

"To be gender isolated or ho-

mophobic is discrimination, so it’s wrong and something that should be done about it," Chandler said. "There aren’t any people who are comfortable — like myself — who want to be open about our identity because [of] fear of losing this body’s job."
WKU denies students freedom of speech

EDITORIAL

Freedom of speech is an integral part of American society and academia. If students are not allowed to express themselves freely, they will not have the opportunities to learn in the capacity that they should.

On WKU’s campus, students are told that they are able to express them- selves everywhere on campus as long as they are not interrupting the educa- tional process or blocking roads and walkways. However, classrooms, libraries, work rooms, hallways, lobbies, administrative and faculty offices, lounges, restrooms and even some of all university buildings, all streets and driveways utilized for vehicular traf- fic, residential buildings and all side- walks used for pedestrian traffic must have a meeting or assembly authori- zed before they can be used, ac- cording to rules published in the Herald last week.

Often, offices or assemblies are not prompted with enough time to go through the process of requesting authorization for an available space. If the group assembling is voicing a negative opinion of those who have control over this authorization, then the controlling group has the ability to silence the opposing group. They can do this by denying them access to the space they need.

By denying students the freedom to meet and assemble in places that are technically considered public forum (specifically sidewalks), WKU’s ad- ministration is oppressing the student body. Having the authority to stop any form of protest against the admin- istration before it can really begin is dangerous.

To change the power dynamic in which the administration rules over the students, WKU needs to get rid of or revise its speech codes, it makes sense to try to protect the educational process and keep it from being inter- rupted, so having rules that deny pro- tests in classrooms when classes are in session and libraries would make sense. In any public area like lounges, sidewalks and residential buildings, students should be allowed access to meet and assemble freely.

WKU should not be able to call itself a public forum if it is not allowing the students their freedom of speech. This is a fundamental right to which students are entitled. If WKU should not be able to call itself a public forum, then it should not be able to call itself a university.

BY MOLLIE MOORE

The Herald encourages readers to write letters and commentaries on topics of public concern. It reserves the right to edit all letters for style, grammar, length and clarity. The Herald does NOT print libelous submissions.

1. Letters shouldn’t exceed 250 words. Commentaries should be about 500 words.

2. Originality counts. Please don’t submit plagiarized work.

3. For verification, letters and commentaries MUST include your name, phone number, home town and classification or title.

4. Letters may not run in every edition due to space.

5. The Herald reserves the right to edit all letters for style, grammar, length and clarity.

6. Submissions must be received by 7 p.m. on Sunday and Wednesday.

Have an opinion? Tweet us @wkuherald or find us on facebook at WKUHerald as well. Let us know your thoughts about the editorial, or write us with what is on your mind.

A guide for choosing winter hairstyles

BY SCOTT HARRIOT

As we brace ourselves for the im- pending cold, why not heat up the chill with hot new hair? Be it a pixie, bangs, bob or layers, let yourself be inspired by the changing weather. Texture is in for the season, so whether you’re looking at a fuzzy snuggler or a fuzzy bear rug, the cold has tendencies to make hair dull, lifeless and un- inspiring things up. Create your own look, a lift, and add soft highlights. Van and blonde! Add golden streaks! Feels like you can’t go wrong with different shades. But don’t be warming to those who are growing out their hair.

Looking for something a bit more subtle? Keep it blant. No lines, no tex- ture — just straight, straight, straight. This look is very simple and easy, perfect for the less daring. Alternately, a choppy pixie could be your best bet. The shorter hair will help you get your warm- ing to those who are growing out their hair.

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Versatile: Because of imposing unreasonable standards on yourself this month, so make sure you don’t take too much at once. Try to be still a few minutes each day, and it will help you resist feeling overwhelmed.

STRESS: There will be a lot of stress energy this month, so make sure you don’t take too much at once. Try to be still a few minutes each day, and it will help you resist feeling overwhelmed.

For the issue: There is a shocking lack of access to free speech on campus, which puts a damper on the educational pro- cess.

Our stance: Blocking people from their right to free speech is not only unconstitutional but also inhibits students from learning.

The issue: There is a shocking lack of access to free speech on campus, which puts a damper on the educational pro- cess.

Our stance: Blocking people from their right to free speech is not only unconstitutional but also inhibits students from learning.
Cast and audience members collapse on stage during a scene from “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” on Saturday. Augusta freshman Felicia Thornsbury, who played Magenta, said, “Rocky Horror is everything we wanted to be before society told us who we had to be.”

GABRIEL SCARLETT/HERALD

Florence freshmen Madeline Marita, left, dressed as Columbia, sings show tunes with Augusta freshman Felicia Thornsbury, dressed as Magenta, backstage before they perform in “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” on Saturday. SHABAN ATHUMAN/HERALD

Louisville sophomore Sadie Saylor-Reiss, right, and freshman Gray Cottrell, left, both of Louisville, act in the annual Halloween production of “The Rocky Horror Picture Show,” written by Richard O’Brien and Jim Sharman, on Saturday at the Capital Arts Center in downtown Bowling Green. “Rocky Horror represents sexual liberation to me,” Saylor-Reiss said. GABRIEL SCARLETT/HERALD

ABOVE: Bowling Green sophomore Aaron Morrison, left, plays Frank-N-Furter. The production was performed in front of a sold-out audience at the Capital Arts Center. SHABAN ATHUMAN/HERALD

RIGHT: Florence freshmen Madeline Marita plays Columbia in a scene from “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” on Saturday. GABRIEL SCARLETT/HERALD
FOR two WKU sophomores, music is more than a hobby; it is a passion. A duo of Louisville natives are hoping to make it big in the rap industry and use their college education to pursue this dream.

Matt Vicente, whose stage name is Rosario, and Alex Gee, whose stage name is Lougz Gee, have been roommates at WKU since the fall of 2014. During their time on the Hill, the two have collaborated to create their mixtape “603,” which dropped on BLUNTiq on July 17.

“We’ve been best friends in high school, and now we’re roommates, so we just come together for this,” said Gee. “We’ve both honestly loved music forever, so it’s been our number one interest.”

Vicente discovered his passion for music early and began writing it at age 10. “I just started writing, and I never took it very seriously until last year,” said Vicente. “I saw a video of ‘106 & Park’ of Biggie, and I really liked it, and I wanted to write it.”

By Kalee Chism

The Hill to be ‘Under the Big Top’ this week

BY SYDNEY RAE DAVIS

The mystery of the circus will be unraveling on the Hill this year during Homecoming week. The theme for WKU’s 2015 Homecoming week, “Under the Big Top,” was chosen by President Gary Ransdell and the Alumni Association.

According to Ginny Hensley, the director of alumni programming, the process of choosing a Homecoming theme begins each year when a committee made up of faculty, staff, students and alumni selects up to 30 possible themes. Depending on the year, Hensley said, “Halloween and politics sometimes play into the theme.”

For this year’s theme, Hensley said the Homecoming committee narrowed it down to three choices and then turned those over to Ransdell.

Allie Sharp, coordinator of student engagement for the Alumni Association, said the final decision was easy for Ransdell. “Once he was given the list, he knew which one it was going to be,” Sharp said.

The theme will be incorporated into Homecoming week in a variety of ways that the Alumni Association hopes will excite students, faculty and alumni. Homecoming festivities begin on Nov. 5 with the Junior Achievement Chili and Cheese Luncheon and Pep Rally. Other notable events for the week include a concert featuring Hunter Hayes, Big Red’s Roar, the Homecoming Parade and the Homecoming Concert in the Park.

“I think [the theme’s] really going to shine at the Homecoming Parade. You’ll probably see things like circus tents,” Sharp said.

By Sydney Rae Davis

SEE MIXTAPE PAGE B2

SEE BIG TOP PAGE B2
Outside the studio, Vicente is majoring in broadcasting while Gee is majoring in communication studies. They hope their majors will help them succeed with their music.

“I majored in broadcasting because I took broadcasting in high school, and I really wanted to learn how to edit videos really well,” said Vicente.

“They find inspiration for their raps in everything from day-to-day life to the Internet, according to Gee.

“We get inspiration from everything, honestly,” he said. “If we go to a party we can write about that, or if there’s a picture, we think, ‘Oh, that’s perfect for cover art.’”

The duo classify themselves as hip-hop artists but say there’s much more to it than that.

“It’s hip-hop, it’s rap, but it can branch out into a lot of different ways,” said Vicente. “We listen to everything, not only rap.”

For now, the two are focusing on being featured on blogs. Their mix tape can be found on SoundCloud and RJmeads, and they have been featured on BLUNTIQ. They hope to branch out as their music progresses, said Gee.

“Blogspot has been our big thing that we’re trying to do right now — just get on as many hip-hop blogs as possible,” said Gee. “We’re shooting new videos soon.”

In the future, they hope to make it big and make a living from pursuing their passion. They have had an immense amount of support from everyone through this process, said both Gee and Vicente.

Aidan Barnett, a freshman from Louisville, and a good friend of both Gee and Vicente since high school, said he has seen the progression of their music and believes they will be successful.

“I think they will make it,” he said. “They both, but Matt especially, have a type of drive and motivation I haven’t seen in many people I’ve been around. Many big name music blogs and trap managers have recognized their music, and the amount of people catching wind of their names will only grow.”

Sharp said.

“Don’t really know what to expect, so I’m ready for whatever they decide to do,” he said.

Continued from LIFE

Dexter Crowds, Late Night & Novo assistant chairman on the Campus Activities Board, isn’t really sure what is to come from the event-packed week but is excited nonetheless.

“I have come that they might have Life and have it more abundantly.

WKU is welcoming all comers to the Homecoming Big Event this weekend! We in Christian Faculty Staff Fellowship believe that God welcome us all to the biggest event and that is a relationship with Him through his son Jesus Christ. We encourage each of you to participate! If you would like to talk with one of us about this most important person please do not hesitate to contact us. Have a wonderful weekend!”

Continued from LIFE

Sharp said.

Hensley added that there will be surprises from special guests during the week. Not wanting to give too much away, she hinted that circus acts may be incorporated into the parade.

Dexter Crowds, Late Night & Novo assistant chairman on the Campus Activities Board, isn’t really sure what is to come from the event-packed week but is excited nonetheless.

“I don’t really know what to expect, so I’m ready for whatever they decide to do,” he said.
Beat the midsemester blues, finish strong

BY SYDNEY RAE DAVIS
HERALDFEATURES@WKU.EDU

With less than six weeks left in the semester and Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks on the horizon, some students may feel unmotivated and anxious for a break.

To beat the midsemester blues, several upperclassmen have offered their advice on how to finish the semester strong by prioritizing time and health.

Junior Clay Schulz of Nashville advises students to “stay healthy being the biggest factor in completing a semester successfully, and time management is a major component of that.”

“Make sure that you take breaks in between studying and tests because constantly working and stressing is really unhelpful,” Brown said. “Drink lots of water; maybe switch out your coffee with tea. Make sure you have a schedule and plan ahead for what is due.”

Connor Brown, a junior from Louisville, believes “Don’t let yourself become overwhelmed,” she said. “You need to try to work some free time into your schedule. Doing something fun or relaxing will help keep a little bit of sanity.”

“Make sure that you take breaks in between studying and tests because constantly working and stressing is really unhelpful,” Brown said. “Drink lots of water; maybe switch out your coffee with tea. Make sure you have a schedule and plan ahead for what is due.”

Junior Dexter Crowder from Louisville is also a supporter of mental health and self-confidence. “Tell yourself you are great and that you can do it,” Crowder said.

Josh Price, a junior from Elizabethtown, shared his key to a successful semester. “If you’re stressing out about your homework, just go work out for a little bit and then you’ll be more motivated to study,” Price said.

“Definitely be concerned about your physical activity level,” Latham explained. “If you’re stressing out about your finals, if you’re stressing out about your homework, just go work out for a little bit, and then you’ll be more motivated to study.”

Whether you decide to work out or to sign off from Netflix for a couple of hours, remember Thanksgiving break is only 21 days away.
Raising more than $36,000 and pay off her current balance due, international affairs and communication studies junior Rita Nyandeng Kerubino Kuanyin is still 20 percent of her tuition expenses is the least of Rita Nyandeng Kerubino Kuanyin’s worries.

As the daughter of one of South Sudan’s most recognizable rebel, Kerubino Kuanyin, Rita Kuanyin faces many repercussions.

Kerubino Kuanyin was a leader of the Sudan People’s Liberation Army during the Second Sudanese Civil War. His leadership contributed to the breakup of Sudan after its government imposed Shariah law over the nation, which split into Sudan and South Sudan in 2011.

Kerubino Kuanyin, a Christian, allegedly fired the first shot to start the war in 1983. Roughly two million lives and more than 20 of his children were lost in international affairs and communication studies prior to the war. Among one of those children were Rita Kuanyin and her mother Nyaling Kuanyin.

It is common for Rita Kuanyin, a 22-year-old junior majoring in international affairs and communication studies, to go without speaking to her mother: She seldom even knows where Nyaling Kuanyin is located.

Nyaling Kuanyin is currently without running water or electricity due to fighting from Kerubino Kuanyin’s political opponents. Kuanyin says her father’s name is raised enough to be killed because his enemies worry about another Kuanyin holding office.

“I’ve always wanted to make my mom proud because I have never seen her pains,” Rita Kuanyin said. “I’ve seen the way she has been through as a mother — I have seen the tears she sheds because she wanted to help me financially.”

Kuanyin’s work as a night clerk at Gilbert Hall and makes $410 per month just enough to afford rent and groceries.

Nearly two weeks, the campaign has seen 15 people donate $3,980. To raise awareness, Kuanyin presented her situation to an international communication class led by Inyoung Kong. This professor has worked closely with Kuanyin on an internship reference letter.

It was Kong who noticed Kuanyin was emotionally distraught.

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When Kerubino Kuanyin lost his job in 2014, the opportunity transpired for Kuanyin has quickly become an unbearable burden.

When she went to explain her situation to university officials at the International Student Office, said.

Kuanyin was emotionally distraught.

“I will be ashamed of my situation,” Kuanyin said. “My dad was a very influential man. I never thought that one day I’ll reach a point that I’ll be asking people to help me financially.”

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After two faculty members reached out to Ransdell, the president sought out Kuanyin and set to meet with her in the coming days about her situation.

"Any student who is experiencing difficulties, financial or otherwise — I’m interested in knowing more about this student and doing whatever I can," Ransdell said. "I don’t know very much about her situation, her family, her life in Sudan or what her prospects might be, but I do know she’s having serious financial problems.

Kuanyin believes people can learn from her story to be strong and patient and not to take negative feedback too seriously because every situation can be solved.

"This opportunity at Western is such a big opportunity for me," Kuanyin said. "Putting my story out there will definitely encourage others (and) make them believe anything is possible."
**TOPS IN THE C-USA**

Sixth-year quarterback Brandon Doughty (12) throws a pass during the Hilltoppers' 48-20 loss to LSU on Oct. 24 at Tiger Stadium in Baton Rouge, La. **HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU**

**FOOTBALL**

BY ANDREW LIVESAY/HERALD

Senior middle hitter Noelle Langenkamp (13) tips the ball past UTSAs middle hitter Kyle Schutt (15) during the Lady Toppers' 3-1 win Oct. 9 against the Owls. **LEANORA BENKATO/HERALD**

**VOLLEYBALL**

**The Major in Diversity & Community Studies requires a minor — such as African American Studies, Citizenship & Social Justice, or Gender & Women's Studies, but any minor (or second major) will work!**

For more information, please email DCStudies@wku.edu or call 270-745-6477.
Hinken, Lever, Carlin shine in C-USA championships

in ninth-place time of 17:57.2 finished in the top 10 with a the meet with a time of 17:43.6. Hinken finished fourth in the meet with a time of 17:25.4. Action resumes for the cross-country program in two weeks, when WKU travels to Charlottesville, Virginia, for the NCAA Southeast Regional meet on Nov. 13.

Sixth-year quarterback Brandon Doughty leading the offense this year.
THE HILLTOPPER basketball team will look for leadership after losing three seniors from last season and adding ten new players.

These seniors will look to break out with big seasons this year. Forwards Nigel Scopes and Aleksej Rostov and micer Aaron Cosby. Coach Ray Harper expects these experienced players in lead a now-new team that will experience growing pains.

"They are doing right or wrong," said Cosby. "I think this team has a lot of room to grow throughout the season."

One senior who seems poised to have a big year is Snipes. The 6-6, 220-pound forward only saw playing time in 24 games last season, but Coach Harper thinks the Marietta, Georgia, native is sitting on a big year.

"I think for the first time, Nigel is really ready to step out of that shadow," Coach Harper said. "There are days in practice where he just makes you think, 'Wow,' but he has not always been able to translate that on a consistent basis. I think he is ready to do that, and we need it desperately from him."

Seniors set to lead Hilltoppers with breakout seasons

Nigel Snipes and Aleksej Rostov and

BY JOHN REECER
HERALD SPORTS@WKU.EDU

NOVEMBER 3, 2015

http://www.wkuherald.com

"It took some work trying to become a leader on this team," Snipes said. "It took some work just getting out of my shell and being willing to be vocal on the court and telling other guys what they are doing right or wrong."

"Aaron has always been labeled a scorer. I was a little concerned about how he would adjust moving back to point guard, but he has really em-

Junior guard Fredrick Edmond (25) pushes past redshirt senior Nigel Snipes (21) during a scrimmage game in Diddle Arena.

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Snipes showed his talent last season when he scored a career-high 15 points and 10 rebounds against the Minnesota on 4 for 6 shooting from the 3-point line.

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Clark-Heard excited for new season, challenges

By Evan Heichelbech

Michelle Clark-Heard and her squad can fare well in that stretch as they have before. Clark-Heard knows that in a season where both new and returning players must brighten their scoring and rebounding output, consistency will be the key to success.

“We want to continue to be consistent in the conference and be one of the top teams in the conference,” Clark-Heard said. “I think the ultimate goal is to get to the NCAA Tournament.”

The Lady Toppers have another tough nonconference slate ahead of them, and Clark-Heard is confident that her squad can fare well in that stretch as they have before.

“If you’ve followed us over the last three years, you know that we’ve been very successful in our nonconference play, and that’s still our goal this year,” Clark-Heard said. But nonconference play and success don’t mean only things Clark-Heard highlighted.

“We want to go on the road, win, and be able to have opportunities to come into this season, to where it needs to be by the season’s end. The large turn over on the roster and the demanding schedule don’t bother the 2014 C-USA Coach of the Year. It’s the constant pressure she puts on herself and her team to overachieve and be successful that makes her job hard.

“I told the freshmen that they really aren’t going to have a chance to be freshmen because we’re going to have to find players to step up right now to be able to help us at the beginning of the season,” Clark-Heard said. “At the end of the day, my job is to get those 13 young ladies in that locker room prepared and ready to go.”

Head Coach Michelle Clark-Heard

Clark-Heard said. “At the end of the day, I think that’s what makes great teams.”

One of the nonconference teams on the schedule is the University of Louisville, who will come to Diddle Arena on Nov. 21 and has the No. 1 recruiting class in the country.

“We will be tested in our conference games last year, but at the end of the day, I think our team is ready for the challenge,” Clark-Heard said. “We’ll continue to keep working in order to get to that point.”

All challenges and worries aside, Clark-Heard is confident that she can get this team to where it needs to be by the season’s end. The large turnover on the roster and the demanding schedule don’t bother the 2014 C-USA Coach of the Year.

“I think going into the second year, it’s definitely going to be a challenge because this is a whole new look for our team, but at the end of the day, I think our team is ready for the challenge,” Clark-Heard said. “We’re just looking forward to just getting out and competing. We’re just looking forward to the competition and being able to have opportunities every day to get better and get to where we need to come March.” Clark-Heard said.

A roster with eight new faces and only two returning starters will make matching last season’s success difficult for the WKU Lady Toppers basketball team.

There will be new challenges, but there will also be some recurring ones that Head Coach Michelle Clark-Heard and her staff have already tackled in seasons past. It’s the constant pressure she puts on herself and her team to overachieve and be successful that makes her job hard.

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